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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/771,938	01/29/2001	Thomas B. Carlson	DEKA:281US/MBW	9121

7590 09/10/2004

Robert E. Hanson
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EXAMINER

MEHTA, ASHWIN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1638

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09/771,938	1/29/2001	CARLSON	DE KA: 281US
EXAMINER			
MEHTA			
ART UNIT		PAPER	
1638		9012004	

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Commissioner for Patents

The reply brief filed 16 August 2004 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal. Note: In the Reply Brief, under the section titled, "STATUS OF THE CLAIMS", Appellant correctly states that the Examiner's Answer indicated that claims 1, 2, 5, 7-10, 12, 13, and 21-23 are allowed. However, Appendix 1 of the Reply Brief, which is a list of appealed claims, erroneously includes claims 22 and 23, both of which are allowed.

The Examiner or Supervisory Patent Examiner requests the opportunity to present arguments at the oral hearing.

Any inquiry concerning this or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Ashwin Mehta, whose telephone number is 571-272-0803. The Examiner can normally be reached from 8:00 A.M to 5:30 P.M. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson, can be reached at 571-272-0804. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9307 for After Final communications. Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

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Ashwin D. Mehta, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1638

September 1, 2004